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**Memorandum**

**Date:** August 10, 2006  
**To:** North Carolina EMS Systems  
**From:** Drexdal Pratt, Chief   
Office of Emergency Medical Services  
**Subject:** North Carolina EMS Data Submission Requirements

The purpose of this document is to provide an update on requirements for EMS data collection and submission based on the NHTSA Uniform PreHospital Dataset Version 2.2.1.

In August of 2005, the North Carolina Office of EMS provided written notification to all EMS Systems of the requirement to submit data to OEMS via the PreMIS system using the NHTSA EMS data definitions and XML standard. Many EMS Systems using commercial EMS software have been delayed in their ability to provide data based on this standard due to the EMS software developers delay in providing a compatible product.

**The August 31, 2006 deadline to provide data to OEMS through the PreMIS system using this standard has been extended. Effective January 31, 2007, all EMS Systems must collect and provide daily electronic data for every OEMS defined EMS event using the NHTSA Version 2.2.1 dataset and XML standard. If the EMS system's primary data collection software or method cannot meet the required data submission date of January 31, 2007, an alternate data submission method is available from the EMS Performance Improvement Center free of charge to the EMS System. This alternate method can be used until the primary data system can meet the data submission requirement. .**

The Office of EMS stands ready to assist EMS systems in meeting this upgrade requirement. Included with this letter, please find the following documents to assist EMS Systems in complying with the EMS data submission requirements:

- \* EMS Data Submission Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions
- \* Definition of an EMS event

## **EMS Data Submission Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Who is responsible to maintain compliance with the EMS Data Submission Requirements?**

Under current North Carolina EMS system structure, EMS service delivery and accountability rests at the county level. It is the responsibility of the county to develop and implement an EMS data structure to include all agencies providing EMS service in the county and included in the county's approved system plan which will provide documentation for each EMS event using the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Standards for EMS Data Collection.

### **What is Compliance?**

Compliance is defined by the daily electronic submission of data to OEMS via the North Carolina PreHospital Medical Information System (PreMIS). .

**Effective January 31, 2007, all EMS Systems must collect and provide daily electronic data for every OEMS defined EMS event using the NHTSA Version 2.2.1 dataset and XML standard. If the EMS system's primary data collection software or method cannot meet the required data submission date of January 31, 2007, an alternate data submission method is available from the EMS Performance Improvement Center free of charge to the EMS System. This alternate method can be used until the primary data system can meet the data submission requirement.**

Each EMS provider within a county EMS system must be included in the EMS data collection and submission plan. It is the responsibility of the county EMS system to make sure all EMS providers in that system collect and submit data to the state for each OEMS defined EMS event. This submission can be accomplished by each provider sending data to the county for submission to the state or by the provider directly collecting and submitting data to the state.

### **What is an EMS Event?**

An EMS event has been defined by the North Carolina Office of EMS. This document has been included with this memo and also can be found at [www.ncems.org](http://www.ncems.org).

### **What EMS Data must be collected?**

All EMS events, as defined by OEMS, must be documented using the required data elements as defined by the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Standards for Data Collection. This document can be found at [www.nccep.org](http://www.nccep.org). **Although each EMS event may not require the documentation of each NCCEP data element, all appropriate data elements for each specific EMS event must be collected.**

### **What EMS Providers within an EMS System must submit data?**

All EMS providers must collect and submit data to the state through their EMS system if they provide the following types of service:

- \* Any provider which is the primary EMS service dispatched by 911 and responsible for primary patient care with or without transport.
- \* Any provider performing a patient evaluation functioning at the ALS level.
- \* Any provider transporting a patient
- \* Any provider providing the primary patient care for a patient who has been defibrillated by an AED prior to arrival by EMS (this includes First Responder and Lay Public defibrillation).

### **How must data be submitted?**

Data must be electronically submitted by three methods.

- \* Use of the PreMIS Web-based data collection system
- \* Use of the PreMIS Mobile, Palm (PDA) based data collection system
- \* Use of a non-PreMIS based data collection system with import through the NHTSA Uniform Prehospital Dataset Version 2.2.1 XML based import process

### **How often must data be submitted?**

**All data must be electronically submitted to OEMS via the PreMIS System within 24 hours of the calendar day the EMS event occurred.**

### **Where can I find more information on the PreMIS Import Process?**

EMS Systems may choose to use a locally developed or commercial non-PreMIS based EMS data collection system. To electronically submit data using a non-PreMIS system, the NHTSA Uniform Prehospital Dataset Version 2.2.1 XML data standards must be used as a vehicle to send data to the state.

Information on the NHTSA Version 2 EMS Dataset XML standard can be found at [www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org). Technical Assistance with the NHTSA XML standard can also be obtained through PreMIS at [www.premis.net](http://www.premis.net).

### **Why does the State require EMS Data to be collected on every EMS event?**

The purpose and goal of state EMS data collection has always been in EMS performance improvement and quality management. The Office of EMS is committed to assisting and promoting the use of data by local systems to better drive EMS service delivery, clinical care and resource utilization. Additionally, information at the state level can drive the political and decision making process with respect to EMS funding, education, policy and support.

An invaluable benefit of the PreMIS system resides the PreMIS Reporting Portal and the EMS Toolkits. This web-based reporting component of PreMIS allows each EMS provider and EMS System to use their data to assist in their daily operations and future planning processes. These reports have been configured to assist with local performance improvement and to identify educational, resource, reimbursement, and patient care initiatives. The EMS Toolkits are in-depth reports which all EMS Systems to benchmark themselves to other EMS Systems and the State. To date EMS Toolkits on EMS System Response, EMS Trauma Care and EMS Cardiac Arrest Care have been developed. During the next 12 months, EMS Toolkits on EMS Pediatric Care and EMS Acute Cardiac Care will be developed.

North Carolina is an active participant in the National EMS Information System initiative. This initiative promotes the implementation of an information system at the local, state and national level. A subset of the data provided to the state will be forwarded to the National EMS Database. This database will serve to promote, support, and drive EMS initiatives at the national level.

### **What is the EMS Performance Improvement Center?**

The EMS Performance Improvement Center (EMS PIC) is an outsourced component of the NC Office of EMS housed within the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The EMS PIC has been strategically placed in this location to provide a high level of Information Technology (IT) support and quality management expertise. The EMS PIC is available to provide county EMS systems the technical assistance necessary to meet the OEMS data submission regulatory requirements.

The EMS PIC has four major projects, these projects include the Pre-hospital Medical Information System (PreMIS), the State Medical Asset Resource Tracker (SMART), the EMS Toolkit Project and the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS).

Information on all of these projects can be found at [www.emspic.org](http://www.emspic.org).

### **What if an EMS System does not meet the EMS Data Submission Requirements?**

The Office of EMS believes that the future and success of EMS systems at the local and state level will be based on knowledge and data. What can be measured, can be managed.

**All future funding initiatives administered through the North Carolina Office of EMS will require compliance with the EMS data submission requirements. EMS systems not in compliance are not eligible for grants or other EMS funding initiatives. These include but are not limited to the HRSA Hospital Preparedness and Rural AED grant programs.**

EMS systems which are not in compliance with the EMS Data Submission requirements may also be subject to disciplinary action as defined in North Carolina EMS law and regulation by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

**What Commercial EMS Software is currently compliant with the NHTSA Uniform Prehospital Dataset Version 2.2.1?**

The National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) is currently testing commercial EMS software for compliance with the NHTSA Version 2.2.1 dataset and XML standard. Currently there are three EMS software vendors who are Gold Compliant and compatible with this standard. It is important that any EMS software purchased in North Carolina be compliant with this standard. All software which is granted Gold Compliance is compatible with the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians 2005 Required Data Elements.

Software which has been granted Gold Compliance can be found at [www.NEMSIS.org](http://www.NEMSIS.org). Please check this website or contact the EMS Performance Improvement Center for assistance in determining if any given software is NEMSIS Gold Compliant at [www.EMSPIC.org](http://www.EMSPIC.org).

**What should an EMS System do NOW to comply with the NHTSA Version 2.2.1 EMS Data Submission Requirements?**

**By October 1, 2006:**

- \* If you are using a Commercial EMS Software, contact your software representative and verify that the software will be NEMSIS Gold Compliant by January 31, 2007.
- \* If you are using PreMIS, no action is required. All PreMIS applications (web and mobile) will be compatible with the standard by the end of 2006.
- \* If your commercial EMS software is cannot become complaint with the NHTSA standard by January 31, 2007, contact the EMS Performance Improvement Center at [www.EMSPIC.org](http://www.EMSPIC.org) to discuss the available options or to obtain a list of NHTSA Version 2.2.1 Gold Compliant software.

**By December 1, 2006:**

- \* If your commercial software will be compliant with the NHTSA 2.2.1 standard, contact PreMIS at [www.EMSPIC.org](http://www.EMSPIC.org) or (919)843-0201 to begin the conversion from your current data submission method.
- \* If you are using PreMIS, not action is required.

**If I have questions about the EMS Data Submission Requirements, who should I contact?**

For any questions or to obtain assistance in complying with North Carolina's EMS data submission requirements, please contact Chad Lohmeier, OEMS Data Specialist at (919)855-3940, or your OEMS Regional Office.

For technical assistance contact Joe Fraser, EMSPIC PreMIS Director at (919)843-0201.